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SPEAKERS

Brian Keever, Gigi, Jimmy Carper



00:03

And I guess actually what we're wanting to encourage is that that everyone can be part of this parade. I think some people have the misconception that because it's a night parade, how will ever be a build a night float? Or how will I build a? A? Anything to put lights on it? How's it gonna be lit up? It really is not that expensive to do.



Jimmy Carper 00:22

I was that's That was my question because I'm a member of the game lesbian switchboard. And of course, we're poor. And I'm thinking



Gigi 00:29

Ms Gigi with BiNet is really poor.



Jimmy Carper 00:33

Generator.



Brian Keever 00:35

Just go to Walmart, you, they have really cheap lay,



Jimmy Carper 00:39

oh, I have lights on it. So I've got lights, it's just, you know, putting it together and the generator and all that And I'm wondering if this is going to scare some people away?

generator and all that. And I'm wondering if this is going to scare some people away.

 00:51

I hope not. Because actually went on the flip side, if you look at it. One thing that the night parade does is it actually hides some things, you don't have to be so meticulous in the detail in the floats or your entry. Because right we

 Jimmy Carper 01:04

are in the dark. That's true.

 Gigi 01:08

That's why they keep those bar so dark. And

 Jimmy Carper 01:12

that's great, because I'm going to look young again.

 01:16

The other thing is that we're going to have a couple of free seminars on how to do lighting at night. Anything from just as Brian was saying a string of lights all the way up to professional floats, sir

 Gigi 01:26

number people can call to get information on these workshops. Yes, they can call

 01:31

our pride line.

 01:32

That number is 713-529-6979. We'll repeat that throughout the evening.

 Gigi 01:41

Because I'm so looking forward to this next parade. In fact, I'm kind of divided because part of

me wants to be in the parade and have a float. That part of me wants to go and sit and watch and cheer him on and say goodbye.

J Jimmy Carper 01:54

No, I've done. You know, in the late 80s. I attended my first well I know at 8786 I guess was the first Pride Parade I attended. And I loved it. But I was like, I want to be in this. And and the in 88 was the first year I was in it. And there's nothing like nothing like it at all just walking down, Westheimer. And you know, especially when you make that curve,

 02:21

it's a blast.

 02:23

Oh, yes. Unbelievable.

J Jimmy Carper 02:26

I don't want to be rude, but it's better than coming. You could say

G Gigi 02:36

Miss Gigi?

J Jimmy Carper 02:37

No, it's just all the wonderful things that you know about the gay community. It's there. And people are cheering and it's just everybody's in a good mood. It's it's really hard to explain.

 02:49

I had a really positive experience. I moved here in 1990, from Waco, which is a very small town. And my first gay pride parade was in 1991. And I was totally amazed at the number of people that were there. The diversity and people, the groups, the businesses, and everyone was so proud to be out there in the street in broad daylight and just was really excited to be there. And it really made me feel good.

J Jimmy Carper 03:15

That's that's very different from Waco. Well, that

 Gigi 03:18

kind of leads to my next question. I want everyone to answer this one. Think about what Houston would be like, if there had been no pride committee and no pride parade. How would you envision it from your perspectives on the pride committee?

 03:39

Well, I think that if Houston had never had, first of all, if I think eventually somebody would have come along and put something together, but I would, I would think that there probably wouldn't be near as many organizations out there, there probably wouldn't be near the number of people out. I think through the Pride Parade every year. hundreds if not 1000s of people find it, you know, okay to come out, they find it okay to come out to their friends, their family. And I think that's one of the things that it provides is that that acceptance that it's okay to be out. So I think that, you know, a lot of a lot less people would be out today if it wasn't for that parade. Well, speaking

 Jimmy Carper 04:19

of the first parade, we happen to have a man in the studio who attended the first one. Oh, wow. Very first one, and it was down Main Street. As a matter of fact, Tom Richards. Can you tell us a little something about that first parade?

 04:37

Oh, that was fun. That was when I came out the closet, by the way, was in 1975 during that pride parade, it wasn't a parade. It was a march because we had no bands. All we had was handmade posters and and we were hauling up down the street come off the sidewalk and into the street. And it was probably lasted. Probably 2030 minutes at the most.

 05:02

Did you have a big turnout? I'm sorry. You have a lot of people there at that time,

 05:06

we had probably about 250. And we just walked in integrate down Main Street. And from the old, what was named a bar exile. Yes. That's where we ended up back in with DX off, but it was it probably lasted maybe 2030 minutes at the most. But that was the first one. And did you have any hecklers? Yes, a matter of fact. I was in the closet terribly in the closet. And now I know. And so Ray Hill had come to me about a week before and said, We're going to have a march downtown. On on gay pride. Okay. Now, you before Ray had said, this is the last year we will be silent in Houston. We will no longer be silent. No, no, that was on the television. Okay.

So I had said to right, well, when's it gonna be? It's gonna be on Sunday afternoon. Where downtown? I said where the be anybody there? He says, no, no, it's on Sunday afternoon. There'll be nobody downtown. I said, Well, right. Will there be any TV cameras or anything? Like no, no. No, channel 13 got right in the middle of

 Gigi 06:26
its lives.

 06:27
Yes, it's based on TV Cam. I'm glad it happened. Although I was I was really upset at the time. But it was fun. It was really fun. It really was. But some of the old people are gone. Some of them are dead, some of them who've moved away, you know, just hard to find anybody anymore.

 Gigi 06:47
And that's another reason why I wanted to do this show is that, you know, as y'all y'all may not know, but Jimmy tapes, every show we do. And part of my interest is to preserve in some form some of our history, because so much of it is already been lost, or people dying of AIDS and whatever causes that we can never get anywhere. And then like to preserve a little bit of our heritage, where we came from?

 Brian Keever 07:22
Well, you know, we used to do a national day of remembrance to remember that yes, I do. We used to do every year, we would do a national day of remembrance, and we would go back and talk about and have people kind of like Papa Bear read wannstrom and Ray Hill and others, they would kind of give us like a gay 101. Yeah, where we've been because you know, new generations come along, new people come along, and they have no idea why we're jumping up and down and being happy on the last Sunday in June other than the fact it's 100 degrees.

 Jimmy Carper 07:51
A couple of years ago, jazz lavender pas was started writing a book about the history of gay life in Houston. And she kind of got waylaid for some reason, and I wish somebody else would take it take it up or that jazz would be able to complete it. I'd have she could because that that is really what we need here. But but to think that first parade had 250 people and now we have well in excess of 25,030 30,000 was

 08:18
the figure we got last year and we're hoping for, I'd like to say 50,000 this year. Wow. I really ...

like to see

 Gigi 08:25
this Gigi or be on the flow that there's 50,000.

 08:33
With lights Gigi with light. Oh, with

 Gigi 08:35
the lights, lights everywhere,

 Jimmy Carper 08:38
it's gonna be wonderful. Can

 Gigi 08:40
I get some lights for under Musker?

 08:43
We're encouraging everything.

 Jimmy Carper 08:49
Encouraging volunteers.

 08:50
Yeah, most definitely.

 Jimmy Carper 08:54
Let's talk about that. Well, actually, not too many. I mean,

 08:58

I actually know we, we can always use more volunteers. i This isn't my first year with the pride committee, and I'm enjoying it immensely. I think it's a great way to put something back into the community. I mean, the pride committee and the pride parade was one of those beacons to me that let me know that there were other people out there. And I just find it to be a really important part of our community as a whole. And I think it's a lot of fun. Besides, you can do something great for the community and have fun at the same time and you

 09:30

meet all kinds of people don't you guy? Yeah.

 Jimmy Carper 09:34

And what kind of things do you have for people to do? I mean, is it like everybody gonna be on TV? And

 09:42

oh, no, we have we have things that you can be as out as you want to be or not out as you want to be? Somewhat everything from mailers where you can stuff envelopes where you're never going to be seen by anybody other than other committee members, all the way up to carrying a banner in the parade.

 Jimmy Carper 09:57

So if a gay or lesbian HR ISD teacher wants to volunteer.

 10:02

And we certainly have a position for almost everyone. Great. And I've had a few of those. Yes, we have.

 Jimmy Carper 10:10

Great. It's nice to know that, that that teachers don't have to volunteer only with the gay and lesbian switchboard. There are other places that they can volunteer. And I missed part of the beginning here because, you know, it's, it's crazy. What is it?

 10:28

The parade is actually on June 28. It's a Saturday night, beginning at 9pm. Ooh,



Jimmy Carper 10:36

gosh, I'll just have enough time to be in the parade and dash to the studio.



10:45

Pride week itself runs for 11 days? I think it is.



10:49

Yeah, it actually kicks off June 19, which is a Thursday, which will be the kickoff party, followed by pumped up on RT, which is our annual fundraiser on Friday night.



Jimmy Carper 11:01

And then I'm glad to see that we're doing that again.



11:03

Yes, it was a great success last year. And we're really we've got some good shoes coming in from celebrities and



Jimmy Carper 11:08

some some wonderful groups really got some bucks from that, too.



11:14

Yeah, yes, we're hoping to even pull in more money this year, bigger event



Gigi 11:19

all deal support with those monies. This year,



11:23

we're actually changing that platform a little bit. What we're going to do is at the end of the year, the fiscal year, we'll look and see how much funding we've received or how much money we've raised. And then we'll again solicit bids from the community from organizations. And then we do a selection

 Gigi 11:40
sir priority system. As far as types of causes are

 11:46
basically any gay and lesbian bisexual transgender organization that is looking for needing help funding, we That's exactly who will help out. In the past, we've helped out groups such as lesbian Health Initiative, Stevens house, Omega house, gay, lesbian, switchboard. 20, something baring Care Center, just a whole range of of any dates, not necessarily to be a 501 C three, just the you know, the main thing is just to be supportive and being providing some sort of service to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered community.

 Jimmy Carper 12:23
As a sideline. I want to say that lesbian Health Initiative was today. Yeah, I was thrilled to drive by and see a sign that said the parking lot was full. Wow.

 Brian Keever 12:36
Jamie, now the more the more funny party is, I was talking to someone that was at the measurement Health Initiative. HPD had a booth at the initiative was a woman there in police uniform, which I was shocked at Oh, but that's that's a major step forward. And I thought, man, whoever set that up, they did a fabulous job.

 12:59
I'd say times are changing.

 Gigi 13:03
And that's part of what this show is about is looking at community first and where we've gone and where we've been, and, and where we're going. Because I think there's some disturbing things, too. I think, you know, in some ways, we're seeing a lot of the girl bars closed down. We're seeing one of the long standing bookstores running into some trouble. Oh, gosh,

 Jimmy Carper 13:30
I'm just headed over England.

 13:32

Yeah. England went up.

 Gigi 13:35

And, you know, if we lose in clang seen and I've kind of thrown this out, and we're going to have them in two weeks.

 Jimmy Carper 13:44

Angling is, is more than a bookstore. It's an institution.

 Gigi 13:47

Yes. But one of the questions I'm going to be asking, and looking at now I want to kind of tie this at y'all to a little bit is in the coming out process. Imagine how many women got their first information from a place like Inklings, or from a place like the pride

 Jimmy Carper 14:11

and pride committee committee, right? I pride parade, just attaching

 Gigi 14:16

their first queen booth and realizing, hey, these things I've been feeling, maybe they're not so bad.

 14:27

Well, Gigi, actually, I came out in San Francisco, which is probably the best place ever to come out of town. There is a place in Berkeley called mama bears very much like Inklings. And it was the first place I went to find information. And then I moved to Houston pride committee was the first place I came to, to find connections with other people. Yeah, so yeah, you know, we need those institutions.

 Jimmy Carper 14:52

And you already told your waco story.

 Gigi 14:57

I want to kind of throw in my two cents on that question I asked, you know, I am scared to death of what Houston would be like if there never been a proud committee. Can you imagine

walking down the street, scared to death that people would find out not knowing who to turn to for support, because I just went through a big ordeal with my family. That's like, I got brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers and aunts and uncles, in the family of choice, that have been more supportive and have reached out to me. When my own bloodlines Badlands. Were ready to cast me aside.



15:43

On that note there. It's, I would like to see and not, not for my own ego or raise ego but, but I would like to see some kind of recognition for those that did march in 1975. Because believe it or not, that took a hell of a lot of guts to in 1975 in this city, to step out in the middle of Main Street, but it takes Addison RASSMAN, and so forth was going on. And I would like to see somewhere another I've been trying to work on for three years. And, and the last guy I found he's already moved to Austin, that we wanted to be into prayed, but I guess that's



Gigi 16:29

definitely a flood see.



16:31

But I would also like to see the pride committee recognize those individuals there, there are many that are gone. And some will never find again, but I would like to see some kind of recognition by the pride committee for them



Brian Keever 16:46

to work for that we can always send out you know, like, we could do, like we're doing right now on the air and anyone that was around then if they would let us know, give us a call on the pride line. I'd love to talk to him. I mean, I think that would be fabulous for for a history. One afternoon. I mean, during during Pride Week, if we could sit around and do a roundtable of what happened in 1975. Here in Houston, wash some of those people, we'd love to see him here in Houston, I'd love to see a float entry.



17:13

Sounds like it would be a really good Pride Week event that could take on during the Pride Week is a roundtable discussion of people who were at that first parade. I think that's a great idea.



17:25

Well, I can probably say for some of the others, like say I've been working on for three years, but I can pretty well say for the others that that you would probably lift their spirits quite a bit if

there was some kind of recognition for that act, because that was one hell of a gutsy act.



17:45

I would kind of like to say that, you know, run along the lines with what we were talking about a minute ago with volunteers, there are a lot of things that I hear that we would like to add to Pride Week. And there are so many things we can be doing and we want to be doing. All it really takes if you want to see something happen with pride committee of Houston, is to come to the meetings and start making it known that that's what you want to happen. The meetings are the third Tuesday of every month at the Metropolitan Community Service Center across from River Oaks



Jimmy Carper 18:20

1475. West Craig, thank you, I know the address better than the name of the place.



18:27

We really we're here to represent the community and anyone who is a part of the community or supportive of our community is more than welcome to show up at a meeting and voice how they feel



Gigi 18:36

that's the third Tuesday, and I'd like to throw in PM, I'd like to touch on one other thing. And that is that, you know, although I look and recognize our past, also look at today and recognize that for someone just coming out of the closet, especially someone that's young, and has never had much experience, maybe from a small town in Texas, and we do co broadcast and Brian station. It's a scary thing when you're first coming in, because you're walking into an unknown world.



19:16

I'll second that. I'm from West Columbia, Texas that's



Jimmy Carper 19:19

outside of Houston. Yeah, I know where that is. I used to work for tenneco.



Gigi 19:24

And while there's a strong community here in Houston, that's not the way it is in every town in Texas. In fact, I know some towns in Texas where I would not survive walking down the street

like this.



19:37

At a radio show like this in my area when I was growing up, it would have made a world of difference to me.



Jimmy Carper 19:43

A lot of our listeners are from 14 to 17 years old and they're listening right now on headphones in their bedrooms.



19:52

I would like to encourage that anyone who is listening that wants to just find out more about Pride Week or the parade or if they wanted to To just to come to a mail out just to meet some more people that are just like them, please give us a call, we'll, you know, we



Gigi 20:07

may use the same names when they call you.



20:09

Absolutely, absolutely. And they can, they can leave a message on our answering service, the pride line is always answered 24 hours a day. And they can, they can either have, you know, an address, we can write back to them, if they want us to call them back with a certain number or a pager number. And we'd be happy to give them information on Pride week when the dates are. And we would be very discreet with that we wouldn't, you know, call and leave messages on answering machines or anything like that. So



20:36

there's there's another great anonymous way. I know a lot. A lot of people are coming out more and more these days. And I know I did on the net. And we have an email address. It is info at [pridehouston.org](mailto:info@pridehouston.org)



Gigi 20:51

They'd like to yes,



...



20:52

that's checked daily also.



Gigi 20:55

Yeah, good, good. Good. I know you've got a big lineup for this year. But I want to look ahead a little bit. Where's pride committee going in the future?



21:09

Well, besides the night parade, we want to move on and have a festival that would go into the next day, maybe even a two day event. Oh, no, we won't be doing that this year because of the night parade. And we have to dedicate our time and energy to that. But what we visualize in the future, I think Darren is kind of an agreement on this is we would like to have it a whole weekend event. And just make it not just a celebration of the parade



Gigi 21:36

camp. Yeah. That would be fun. We



21:38

want to include more people in the community, not just a lot of times in the past, it seems like it's been centered around bars. Yes. And the bars are a great place. Everybody gets started in the bars. But there are times when you move on. You have children, some people have children. Some people don't go to bars, some people don't drink anymore. And we want to try to include them.



Gigi 21:57

Another rodeo gets Memorial Park for campers during the big rodeo thing. Maybe pride could get the park for Pride Week.



22:06

Gigi That's an excellent idea.



Gigi 22:09

And then all those people from small towns can come and camp out in style.





22:13

That mean you're gonna come with



Gigi 22:17

oh, you know,



22:20

we have this. Susan and I've talked about this at length, we had this vision of five years down the road that the kickoff event being held at the summit, with some big name entertainer, kicking it off, like Elton John or somebody this again, this is just a dream we have. But some kind of a huge celebration kicking off at the summit with 1000s of people packed in there, maybe during Pride week having events and workshops all day long, every single day of 10 days of events. And then when the night parade rolls around, we have you know something very similar to what Sydney Australia does for their Mardi Gras parade. That event is huge. And it's the only other nighttime gay and lesbian Pride Parade in the world. And so that's what we're trying to pattern hours after is just like what Sydney does in, in Australia for Mardi Gras.



Brian Keever 23:09

And so that way we can be the third coast and that way the East Coast and the West Coast would have to come here.



Jimmy Carper 23:14

Wouldn't that be a sweet? Yes, there is life in middle America.



Gigi 23:22

And there's life in history.



23:26

We're really trying to encourage that as well to try people coming in from out of town. We're really hoping that we can get people from all over the state of Texas and maybe Louisiana to come in for our our priority, if not, not Pride Week, at least for the parade on Saturday night. And that's one of the reasons we like having it on Saturday night is that gives people all day Friday or Saturday to travel and to go back home on Sunday.



Jimmy Carper 23:50

And it's really nice of Dallas to have theirs at a different time so that they a lot of Dallasites can

and it's really nice of bands to have shows at a different time so that they a lot of bands can come to Houston and celebrate.

G Gigi 23:59

I'd like to tie something in. I once went to the rally after the parade and heard a lesbian speak and the sparkle SR in her eye. And the way she addressed the issues just something magical in all the people there standing. Not just proud but glowing, and being different. And being part of a community.

B Brian Keever 24:31

I bet I know who that was to. I bet that was Linda mirallas

G Gigi 24:34

mean names.

B Brian Keever 24:38

Electrifying, you know in front of a crowd and on the microphone.

G Gigi 24:42

And you know, a lot of people think of pride committee and think of the parade but you know, it's so much more with so much more.

J Jimmy Carper 24:50

Oh yes, that's just the that's just the end of a wonderful chain of events that has been happening and going on.

G Gigi 24:57

But we do have some strong speakers In this community, and very powerful, and we've got a big community that's very powerful.

 25:08

It's funny that you should use that particular verbiage or words because the the slogan this year is glowing with pride. And that is our whole intent is to show and glowing is not only just the night, the nighttime parade and the lights, but glowing with inner pride, showing who you

are and being proud of who you are. And knowing that there's nothing wrong and loving yourself just for who you are.

 Gigi 25:34

Oh, Miss GJ is proud. And Miss JGS Glower.

 25:41

I'd like to repeat if I could the telephone number and our webpage address that if anyone wants to see that our telephone number, again is area code 713-529-6979. And we have a web page and that's at WWW dot pride houston.org. Or we can be emailed at info at Pride houston.org

 Jimmy Carper 26:04

and you're listening to the pride committee right here on after hours queer radio with attitude. KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station.

 Gigi 26:17

My next question. This is just kind of the throw out to each of y'all because y'all give your time without getting paid. Am I correct?

 26:27

Absolutely.

 Gigi 26:31

What do each of y'all get out of being part of the pride committee?

 26:37

Oh, my goodness. Well,

 Jimmy Carper 26:39

first, you've been there the longest Yeah.

 Brian Keever 26:42

My first Pride Parade in 1982. But I just walked up and asked Laurie, if he needed any help. Well, it makes me want to be a gay man in the city of Houston. Gay pride for me is a way of life. Yeah. And I really enjoy the excitement and the attitude and the thoroughness that you get from seeing people and knowing that we are a huge community of every type of individual from leather man to drag queens, diversity, you name it, and we're just we're just wonderful. And that's what makes me happy about gay pride is just seeing how many people there are.

J Jimmy Carper 27:28

And, and being part of that I know you, Brian, and you're able to get a whole lot of really great gossip.

 27:38

Right now let's move on.

G Gigi 27:46

Oh, prime detail more

 27:49

oldest to the youngest here.

B Brian Keever 27:55

Find one, I get better with age.

G Gigi 27:59

You know, they're getting closer to that mic. Before long, they're gonna swallow it closer to each other.

 28:08

There's some gossip for you.

 28:11

I was gonna say that what I get out of it. It's very interesting, because I went and I told my father and my stepmother very shortly after I got involved with pride committee that I was what I was getting into. And they were very supportive. And I made a statement to them that I

what I was getting into. And they were very supportive. And I made a statement to them that I felt it was very important that in the, in our community that we had to make our own celebrations, because there wasn't anybody out there doing it for us. And I found it kind of interesting, cause my stepmother she stopped and she looked at me. And then she said, Well, you know, that's true. And actually in the world, in its current state, we all need to make her own celebrations. And I'm really proud of you for taking this step forward. And being a part of making that happen. And so that's what I get out of it is that I think it's really important that we all find something to celebrate in our own lives. And that the pride committee gives me an excellent opportunity to do that and to help other people realize that they can be proud and be happy and have something to celebrate in who they are.

 Jimmy Carper 29:06

Mm hmm. That's great. That's that's gonna be hard to top.

 Gigi 29:11

Oh, I bet she can. She looks like a top to me.

 29:16

I can handle you any position Gigi.

 Gigi 29:21

Jam bring that weapon here that a lot of the telephone line works that flogger

 Jimmy Carper 29:27

just to kind of a regular restaurant.

 29:33

Right when I started with the pride committee, I was looking for a place a sense of place to belong. And I had just moved here to Houston and it was pretty traumatic coming from San Francisco, because at the time I think they had just had a murder outside of heaven. And I was pretty worried about it. One of the things I've come to learn is that when you have pride within yourself and you're working with this group of people, you You also become very clear about what you want to do. And since then I've moved on and come out within my company, which is a big step. And this year, I'm actually on Chevron Diversity Council. As a lesbian.

 Gigi 30:12

I'm glad you bring that up, because Thank you, part of the coming out process. And I do this

I'm glad you bring that up, because thank you, part of the coming out process. And I do this with bias talked bisexuals all the time about this, before you can come out to anybody, you've got to be centered in who you are. And be, you know, if you come out from a position of this horrible disgusting thing it's going to show but if you come out, being proud of who you are, and being centered in who you are, it makes all the difference in how people are going to accept it.

 30:49

Well, I guess I got involved kind of strange, because four years ago, my significant other was involved with pride Committee during the pride guide. And so I I kind of came along and said, hey, what can I do to help? And they actually needed to treasurer and being being a CPA, I thought, well, I can do this. Well, I got in there and realized, I've made so many friends. And there was so many people that you know, really liked I got along with. And I guess what really impacted me the most was that first Pride week that I was actually in the parade, and I looked at all the people on the side. And when you're looking at 25 30,000 people lining the street, all cheering and happy and gay, so to speak. Awesome. It was just a feeling I have never experienced in my life. And it was just such a good feeling, though that there was 25 or 30,000 people cheering on the side of the street. And they're all happy and proud to be gay. And I thought this is exactly what I want to do.

 Jimmy Carper 31:51

And I'd like to see it. Have 350,000 gay, bisexual, transgendered people on the sidewalks?

 Gigi 32:01

Yeah, cuz I mean, because we can you imagine that many more in this? Yeah, I was gonna say can you imagine if every single gay lesbian bisexual transgendered showed up one day? Well, we'd

 Jimmy Carper 32:14

have to make it a two or three mile parade.

 32:18

A lot larger parade.

 32:21

Bigger festivals.

 Jimmy Carper 32:23
And that would be great. Yeah, I

 32:25
wouldn't mind doing that.

 Gigi 32:26
That's a kind of problem Miss chichi loves to hear.

 32:31
That's one of the things we're like your radio show does so wonderfully is that it reaches out to those people that we can't reach any other way that we don't we don't even know they're out there half the time because they're not necessarily out yet. Or they're just not part of the urban community is like, well,

 Jimmy Carper 32:47
that's That's right. And in fact, until after two o'clock, which is, you know, 205 Now, now we are probably getting the gay community listening to the show, because they've been in the bars. We've we, prior to that, we've got people we've got suburbia, listening. We've got couples who have met them met each other and moved off to Meijer land and wherever, you know, have the white picket fence in the little house. And those are the people we're reaching.

 Gigi 33:26
So someone wanted to get involved in pride. What do you think some of the benefits for that person might be?

 33:35
Excitement? Friends.

 33:39
I think a sense of self is really important. You get that you get the RE confirmation or reaffirmation of who you are just the people you're around. Oh, yeah,

 33:50

11 33:50
support. Exactly.

B Brian Keever 33:52
Isn't it being a support network for years for people that for no other reason, they didn't want to go to a bar and just stand around. So they came and joined gay pride.

 34:05
I think one thing we need to say also is that it's a year round event. I mean, we do the parade, we have the 10 days, but it takes us a year to plan. So I want to talk to me once

G Gigi 34:13
volunteering for y'all.

 34:16
That's from several of our mail outs. Oh, yeah. Someone said to me, once we, you know, I felt that just a bunch of people call each other up, and then they showed up and put on a parade. No, they were serious.

B Brian Keever 34:29
People think that's what happens. They go well, don't just do that, like, you know, they get together like the week before. And you just put it down, right?

 34:40
Wrong. Last year, we had about 250 people involved in the parade and the festival will need more this year. So we're really looking for volunteers and

G Gigi 34:49
there's a lot that goes on behind the scenes, not just mail outs, but even during the parade, you've got a lot of people to make sure that things run smoothly. I know y'all have had problems in the past with cars shutting down and not wanting to go.

 35:07
Think about what it takes to run a parade without even thinking about problem solving. You

know the people to keep the set it up and get you locked and get all the parade floats lined up to keep them going in order and spaced out, you

 Gigi 35:20

get that many queens lined up on all those streets back, they're all wanting to go at the same time. Girl, you've got to have some.

 Jimmy Carper 35:29

As a matter of fact, a couple of years ago, the game was being switchboard had a really great float, and they ended up winning like the Pride Award. I remember that float. However, when the parade started, the truck would not start. And it would not start and it would not start and it would not start and we thought we had to let people go ahead of us. And we thought we were just gonna have to like abandon it and just be a walking contingent. And a police officer came by, brought his car and gave us a jump, which is exactly what we needed. The Houston

 36:06

police. Police

 36:09

are changing.

 Jimmy Carper 36:10

And we ended up winning the Pride Award. Wow, it was just great. Absolutely great. But no, go on. I lost my train of thought.

 Gigi 36:21

Well, it's amazing how much energy comes out during that week of festivities. And from sometimes my Jimmy was saying unseen sources. You know, unexpected sources.

 36:37

That's true. We have a lot of energy in our members to know the people that work on the committee are very high energy people. So it's kind of fun to be around them. You know,

 Gigi 36:46

are y'all are all sparkling. I can see it.

 36:49

That's pretty amazing for 2am.

 36:52

We know you better than that. Susan.

 Jimmy Carper 36:55

I heard through the grapevine that the pride committee is looked up to by the city of Houston, so much so that we're allowed to do things that maybe other people aren't allowed, like the pink triangles on the flagpole and things like that. And is that because we've been so organized? You've been so organized and proven ourselves to the city?

 Brian Keever 37:21

Oh, yes, we even we even got designated we are in charge. The pride community of Houston Incorporated, is in charge of the banner district for Laura Westheimer. Not anyone else we are we are the people in charge it were the people that put it together. We went before city council, we dotted all the i's cross the T's you did it, we did it. And that's something I'll say we have people. If you work in the city of Houston, you want to help us we could always use help. County, whatever, we can always use help. You don't even have to show up to the parade. Just helping us get the paperwork going through the proper channels is wonderful. You'd be surprised how much help that could be

 Jimmy Carper 38:01

a personal question. Just on on? Well, there was a time that that parade floats, couldn't throw beads and things like that. Is that still in the factor? Did we change that? Or what?

 38:17

Actually that's a new change for this year. Yes, that is a new change.

 Jimmy Carper 38:21

The rumor is true. That is true. It was



38:25

voted upon at a meeting I believe two months ago, the crew of Olympus which is a fine organization, here really did some research into it and basically put a proposal together for us and said, you know, there is not breaking any city ordinances. And as long as it's not trashed, it's you know, as long as we're throwing things like beads or you know, smile you something of value that people would want



Gigi 38:51

their condoms.



38:54

Condoms because the fact that we can't guarantee who gets them in the crowd, okay. We have to still comply with certain legal regulations. So everything that is thrown from a float has to be approved by the prime committee. That's what we made the change in so that we can be sure bricks are not a good thing. Your commemorative brick is not a good idea.



39:17

And paper products. Yeah, we don't want to turn into litter.



Jimmy Carper 39:21

Don't tiaras.



39:22

Oh, good. Good choice. I could use one.



39:25

I'm gonna leave that lane on the screen. Okay.



39:27

I think also this is a perfect example of a group who was interested in making a change. So they came before the pride committee. They showed up they presented their their proposal made perfect sense. And we went with it. So anybody else can do the same thing. And they volunteer? Oh, yes, they do volunteer.



39:46

Yeah, because I don't I don't want to think that we're over here making all of the decisions. What we want to do is we want to encourage people to come to the meetings if something is going on in Pride Week, or the parade that you don't like, please come to a meeting. Let us is no, you know what, what, what's bothering you or what's going on or if you've got a great idea,



Gigi 40:04

Miss JG can testify that they do listen, she fit in for a number 69 last year and got it



40:13

represent the community. But we can only do that if the community tells us what they want



40:17

I see now I remember I've been around long enough is that I can remember when there was like a new prime committee every year and every year, you had to reinvent yourself. And then we came to a point where the executive committee was chosen and things. How is that working out? I mean, it seems as though people are kind of working their way up through the ranks. And so



40:47

I think it's a natural progression of an organization that has to grow. For one thing. In the other sense. People have worked their way up to the ranks. We have a board now and Brian can talk a little bit about that. Most of it is made up of people who've been on the committee for a long time, which is a good idea.



Jimmy Carper 41:04

Oh, absolutely. Because before it was like, it was like everything was new every year. And there's created a lot of dissension. Remember, Brian



Brian Keever 41:11

Oh, no nervous, like we're no longer just a little living room group. This is a viable for lack of a better term, viable Corporation, almost. I mean, we are, there are so many people that do so many things. Now, you could never possibly get it done with just a couple of people sitting around in living rooms, right. You know, this. This is just, you know, it grows and grows and grows. We actually have an office now. Yes, we do. We do have a prayer community of Houston has an office. We're staffing it, you know when we can but you know, that phone still gets answered all the time.

G Gigi 41:51
And I'd like to try something out at John. Especially to you, Brian. Did I get that right? Yeah, yes.

 42:00
You're improving?

G Gigi 42:04
Have you noticed a trend and in growth over

B Brian Keever 42:07
the years? Oh, yes. I mean, we're so funny. I was sitting with Carol Clark, who's also been on the committee a couple years with me, I would say, at the beginning of the year, we were at the retreat. And Carol looked at me and we were sitting there talking, she goes, Brian, look, I went quiet. She goes there also young and follow. Yes, I know. Isn't it wonderful? So we finally have a Generation X that we can look up to

 42:36
actually getting recruited from corporate America this year. So we went a lot of our business through email faxes, it's it's a real, it's a real change for the pride committee. But it's a move in a good direction. I think. I

 42:48
think probably the average age of the executive committee this year is probably about 26 or 28 right now.

 42:54
So it's probably the youngest committee we've had in a long time.

B Brian Keever 42:57
And it's amazing when you sit there and see them, pop up their laptops, and everything is two or three laptops sitting here at a meeting. It's like, yeah, and they're all working.

 Jimmy Carper 43:09

And as I recall, Jack Alinsky was kind of instrumental in getting this going. Jack, who is the producer of lesbian and gay voices heard here every Thursday night at eight to 10.

 Brian Keever 43:20

And we also do do computer updates.

 Jimmy Carper 43:24

And I think Jack probably helped get the computer into the pride committee. Jack

 43:29

is Jack is actually technology chair in the board level.

 43:32

Yeah, yeah. Jack has actually been very instrumental in this whole Pride Week organization. He's one of the founders of the organization he's doing. He and Carol Clark, were actually instrumental in getting us incorporated getting our 501 C three status four or five years ago. And now as serves as a board of directors, and you know, we are constantly calling him and saying, Hey, what do we do about this? What should we do about this? Or that? He's got a plethora of information available to us?

 Jimmy Carper 43:58

That guy has worked his butt off.

 Gigi 43:59

Yeah. Also want to ask during the festival after the parade? Is there gonna be any big names this year?

 44:09

We're not going to have a festival this year. No, it was really, really depressing for us, Darren and I kicked it around for a long time. Two reasons were the cause of that. One is that we were not able to fill that chair with people. We couldn't find people to coach here that area. The other thing was if if they we didn't find someone, Darren, I had to do it. And with everything else going on, we felt that if we had to take on a festival, also, it might not be as good as it could be.

J Jimmy Carper 44:36
Wow. So instead know how to say no, it was

 44:40
hard. It was hard. But we actually found an alternative. Darren,

 44:44
we actually did. One of the things we're going to do this year and this is actually very new news is we're going to have an after parade party. The parade, as I said will be on Saturday night June 28. From nine until about 11. We'll starting at Around 1030 Prime committee of Houston is teaming up with outrage, which is a wonderful group here in Houston. That puts on the outrage Halloween party every year. Well, they've been wanting to do a Pride Week party. And so we're joining forces with outrage to do the first ever after a parade party and what we're going to be doing is having it at a location get to be determined. They're working on that right now. And it'll run from 1030. Until who knows when it's going to be a big party. Really, really nice DJ Good Music Good.

B Brian Keever 45:35
On the same line as having a circuit party, yeah. If people know what that means, we will hopefully have Houston's when Houston's best pride circuit party.

J Jimmy Carper 45:45
Boys with very little

 45:46
clothing. Exactly. And women monkey women with

G Gigi 45:49
me, I'll be there. G is not modest one bit. Jimmy can testify for my parties.

 46:02
We're expecting probably around 1000 At least 1000 people in attendance to this party.



Jimmy Carper 46:06

Right. What is the route this year?



46:10

The parade route? That's a good that's a new one that's actually actually has had to change because of city of Houston ordinances that if you have a night if you have a night parade, your parade route cannot be more than one. I think it's more than one mile and one mile. And so what we've had to do is we've had to start in the parade closer in than in the past. Usually it starts at Woodhead Westheimer. In Woodhead, what we've had to do is move it in quite a bit closer, and I can't remember the the cross street. It's Mandel Mandel, which is really close to where the potpie is. We're going to be starting they're lining up there. We'll go down Westheimer which is actually we'll be heading east on Westheimer all the way to Montrose. We'll take a ride on Montrose and wow. Go all the way to Hawthorne which is where Kroger and Walgreens is. Take a left on Hawthorne